

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 2, 8 and 9.

Claims 2 and 7 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to make minor editorial corrections and respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 5 and 9 were objected to for various informalities. In response, Applicants amend claims 4, 5 and 9. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objections be withdrawn and claims 4, 5 and 9 be allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 2-4 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 7-76438. ("Japan '438").

In response, without agreeing or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants cancel claims 2 and 7 and amend claims 4, 5, 9 and 10. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amended claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 as amended. Applicants rely on M.P.E.P. § 2131, entitled “Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) and (c)” which states, “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Applicants respectfully submit that Japan ‘438 does not disclose each and every limitation of amended claims 4, 5, 9 and 10.

The claims contain the recitation of features that are not present in the device of Japan ‘438. Newly amended independent claims 4 and 9 recite a sheet guide having “special sheet ribs...wherein the sheet guide further has a pressing member between the special sheet ribs that supports a side of the sheet other than the special sheet by pressing, and descends by a weight of the special sheet when the special sheet is inserted between the ribs.” As shown in Fig. 3 of the specification, the pressing member of this embodiment of the present invention is attached to the sheet guide 13 by a mounting portion 20a. Thus, the presently claimed invention is directed to a sheet guide having both special sheet ribs and a pressing member attached to the sheet guide.

In contrast, Japan ‘438 does not teach or disclose a sheet guide having special ribs and a pressing member mounted between the special ribs. Instead, Japan ‘438 teaches the use of two guide structures. Japan ‘438 discloses a flank guide plate 30 having a plurality of ribs. In addition, Japan ‘438 teaches a separate guide plate 45 having an elastic body 50 projecting from the guide plate 45. Accordingly, Japan ‘438 teaches the use of two guide plates, a flank guide plate 30 having ribs and a separate guide plate 45 having an elastic body. (See Figure 4.) As shown in Figure 4 of Japan ‘438, the two distinct guide plates are positioned opposite each other so that a form P moves between the guide plates. The Japan ‘438 reference teaches that the elastic body 50 presses the form P into the flank guide plate 30. This is shown for example in figure 6. Thus, Japan ‘438 fails to teach or disclose a sheet guide having special sheet ribs, “wherein the sheet guide further has a pressing member between the special sheet ribs that supports a side of the sheet other than the special sheet by pressing, and descends by a weight of the special sheet when the special sheet is inserted between the ribs” as claimed in claims 4 and 9.

The dependent claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 depend from one of the independent claims 4 and 9 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5 and 8-10 are not anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 7-76438 and are therefore allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and claims 3-5 and 8-10 be allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 3-4 and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,149,045 ("Kadono") in view of Japan '438. Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadono in view of Japan '438 and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,393 ("Kida et al.").

In response, without agreeing or acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants amend claims 4-5 and 9-10. As stated above, Japan '438 does not disclose or suggest all the features of independent claims 4 and 9. Further, Kadono and Kida et al. fail to cure these deficiencies.

For example, neither Kadono or Kida et al. teach or disclose a sheet guide having special sheet ribs wherein the sheet guide further has a pressing member between the special sheet ribs. Claims 3, 5, 8 and 10 depend from one of independent claims 4 and 9 as amended and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 3-5 and 8-10 are allowable and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

After amending the claims set forth above, claims 3-5 and 8-10 are now pending in this application. Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Pavan K. Agarwal Reg. No. 43,438

Pavan K. Agarwal
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,888